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BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR.

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RELIGIOUS SERVICES TO-DAY.

BROOKLYN STREET UNIVERSALIST CHURCH.—Rev. J. M. Lusk. 10. "It is never too late to mend."

BROADWAY TABERNACLE CHURCH.—Dr. Thompson. 10. "The Kingdom of God is within you."

CATHOLIC APOSTOLIC CHURCH.—The Sacrament of the Eucharist. 10. "The Kingdom of God is within you."

CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION.—Dr. E. O. Felt. 10. Morning.

CHURCH OF THE REFORMATION.—Rev. Abbott Brown. 10. Morning.

CANAL STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—Rev. David Mitchell. 10. Morning.

CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION.—Rev. T. M. Morgan. 10. Morning.

SEVENTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—Rev. T. M. Morgan. 10. Morning.

CHURCH OF THE PURITANS.—Rev. Matthew Hale. 10. Morning.

CHURCH OF THE STRANGERS.—Hall of the University. Washington square.—Rev. Dr. Houston. 10. Morning.

CHURCH OF THE HOLY APOSTLES.—Rev. Dr. S. H. Jones. 10. Morning.

CHURCH OF THE DIVINE PATERNITY.—Rev. E. H. Chapin. 10. Morning.

FREE METHODIST. Eighteenth street and Eighth avenue.—Rev. Dr. Roberts. 10. Morning.

SEVENTEENTH STREET METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.—Rev. W. F. Condit. 10. Morning.

ST. ANN'S FREE CHURCH.—Morning, afternoon and evening.

TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH.—Rev. J. Starford. Morning and evening.

UNIVERSITY. Washington square.—Bishop Snow on "The Harvest and Vintage." Afternoon.

UPPER CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION.—Morning and evening.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Sunday, December 8, 1867.

THE NEWS.

EUROPE.

The news report by the Atlantic cable is dated to two o'clock yesterday afternoon, December 7.

The Paris Press states that the Roman Conference will assemble in Paris, on Monday, to-morrow, and that the ambassadors of the great Powers now at the French Court will represent their sovereigns in the assembly.

The London Globe, on the contrary, says the Conference is rendered impossible by the attitude of France.

Italian politics created much anxiety in financial circles in England. Italy has annexed Garibaldi's adherents. Baron Rattazzi was proposed for President of the Italian Legislative Chambers, but defeated.

Her Majesty's theatre, London, was destroyed by fire on the night of the 6th inst., with a very heavy loss of property.

Consols were at 92 1/2-16 for money in London. First-twenties were at 70 1/2-16 in London at noon.

The Liverpool cotton market was quiet and steady, with middling uplands at 7 1/2 pence. Breadstuffs quiet. Provisions unchanged.

CONGRESS.

The Senate was not in session yesterday.

In the House, the resolution for the impeachment of the President came up in order, the preceding question being on Mr. Wilson's motion to lay the whole subject on the table. After a few illustring movements Mr. Togan asked that if Mr. Wilson's motion was withdrawn and a square vote on the main resolution was permitted the radical minority would withdraw all opposition. Mr. Wilson consented. The vote was accordingly taken on the resolution for the impeachment and resulted yesterday 108 yeas, 80 nays. So the impeachment of the President falls to the ground. The bill suspending authority for the retirement and cancelling of United States notes was passed by yeas 138, nays 37. In Committee of the Whole the finance question was further considered, and the House adjourned till Monday.

MISCELLANEOUS.

By our special telegrams over the Cuba cable we have furnished reports from Mexico to the 5th ult.

Congress was to commence holding open session on the 1st inst. Several of the State Legislatures had convened. Excessive tolls throughout the country have been abolished. The Apache Indians continued their depredations. Destructive inundations had taken place in Oaxaca. The condition of the treasury was improving. The postage system had been abolished. Romero would probably succeed Lerdo in the Cabinet. The concession for the building of the Mexico and Vera Cruz Railroad had been renewed to the old English company. Padre Fischer was still a prisoner and Marques was believed to be in the capital.

News from Porto Rico to the 1st instant is furnished by our special Cuba despatches. The reports of recent earthquakes are confirmed. Nearly all the houses in St. Johns were damaged. The island of St. Martin is reported to have nearly disappeared and that of St. Bartholomew to have been almost destroyed by a volcano.

In the Constitutional Convention yesterday a proposition was made to secure another building for the holding of the sessions, as the Legislature will soon require their chambers for their own use. A resolution to amend the article relative to the salaries of members of the Legislature was tabled, and, pending further consideration of the judiciary report, the Convention adjourned until Monday evening.

The December statement of the public debt shows the total debt to be \$2,630,382,572, with a coin and currency total in the Treasury of \$128,176,820. Compared with the November statement this shows an increase in the debt of \$9,701,301, and compared with the statement of December, 1866, a decrease of \$48,425,487.

The Canal Commissioners have extended the time indefinitely for the closing of the State canals; but Jack Frost will probably decide the matter without their interference. The canals are rapidly filling with ice, and most of the boats detained near Albany are tied up, their officers having no hopes of getting out. At Schenectady several tug boats were hard at work pushing the boats through to tide-water.

A conspiracy in the New Jersey State Prison, at Trenton, yesterday, resulted in the escape of nine convicts. Eight of them were recaptured after a hot pursuit.

In the case of Spencer, who was charged with counterfeiting legal tender notes, Colonel Wood, the only witness for the prosecution, at Newark, yesterday, testified that he had no evidence against the prisoner, and the case was accordingly dismissed, as well as the charge against Spencer's wife, who was implicated with him.

Nelson Rock, an alleged murderer in Springfield, Mass., has been declared insane by the medical authorities.

The bill providing for the annexation of the British Northwest possessions to the new Dominion was passed in the Canadian House of Commons yesterday.

The gale which is prevailing on the lakes has already caused several marine disasters. The schooner S. R. Allen was sunk in Kingston harbor, and the Baltic at Oswego. The gale also extended to the interior of New York and blew down a new Catholic church at Spencerport.

A train on the Oswego and Rome Railroad ran off the track on Friday night and the locomotive upset, the engineer and fireman being scalded to death.

A residence near London, C. W., was burned down yesterday. Mrs. Leonard, the lady of the house, who was an invalid, being burned to death.

The ship Lord Brougham, which arrived on the 6th with cholera on board, is at anchor in Gravesend Bay. No deaths or new cases of sickness have occurred on her since yesterday.

There were 356 deaths in this city last week, an increase of twenty-four over the week previous. The Sanitary Board says be careful of your families.

A large meeting of freemasons was held in Faneuil Hall, Boston, last evening to express indignation at the course of the British government in executing the Manchester Fenians. Addresses were delivered by ex-Mayor Whitman, John Savage and others, and a letter of hearty approval was read from George Francis

Train. Resolutions were adopted demanding that the government insist upon the release of all imprisoned American citizens in England, and demand reparation for injuries sustained by such citizens. A similar mass meeting was also held in St. Louis.

In the Virginia Convention yesterday eight dollars per diem was agreed upon as pay for the members, with the usual mileage. In a caucus of radical members it was decided to require the test oath from all delegates. In this case it is probable the whole conservative delegation will retire.

General Sherman arrived in Washington yesterday. The rest of the Indian Peace Commission accompanied him.

In the famous Peterson abandonment case yesterday the closing arguments of counsel on both sides were heard, and the Judge announced that he would render his decision on Saturday, December 21. The stock market was firm yesterday. Gold closed at 126 1/2-130 1/2. Government securities were inactive.

Lord Stanley on the Alabama Claims—Our Policy the Cash or Reprisals.

We have a cloudy despatch from London, according to which the *Times*, in an editorial, says:—"Lord Stanley is right in refusing to permit the foreign policy of England to be reviewed by any foreign Power whatever. On all other points (on the Alabama claims) England will gladly meet the United States halfway, as she is thoroughly tired of the discussion." This is the British side of the question. In the next place President Johnson, in his annual Message of the 3d inst., says:—"No arrangement has yet been reached for the settlement of our claims for British depredations upon the commerce of the United States. I have felt it my duty to decline the proposition of arbitration made by her Majesty's government, because it has hitherto been accompanied with reservations and limitations incompatible with the rights, interest and honor of our country." But he further says:—"It is not to be apprehended that Great Britain will persist in her refusal to satisfy these just and reasonable claims, which involve the sacred principle of non-intervention—a principle henceforth not more important to the United States than to all other commercial nations." This is the American side of the question, and with the two sides placed side-by-side the controversy begins to assume an ugly complexion, and at all inviting juncture for decisive action.

Lord Stanley "will not permit the foreign policy of England to be reviewed by any foreign Power." What is the meaning of this? We presume that, in the lengthy correspondence which has taken place between the two governments on these British depredations, Mr. Adams, in overhauling the record of the foreign policy and international transactions of England, has found some precedents which sustain his case, and has put the present British Cabinet in an awkward dilemma, from which Lord Stanley could only extricate himself by imperiously closing the discussion. He will not permit the foreign policy of England to be reviewed. If she held one position yesterday and holds another to-day on these piratical depredations upon our merchant ships, what business is this of ours? He will not be called to account for it. Very well. If his Lordship will no longer listen to reason and fair argument (and we think we have had talk enough on the subject), the only course left to our government is that of General Jackson's touching those claims for certain French spoliations—the simple submission to her Majesty's government of the alternative of the cash or reprisals.

The policy pursued by England and France, but especially by England, toward the United States, from the breaking out of our late Southern rebellion until all hopes of its success had vanished, was eminently offensive, treacherous and unjust. With unseemly haste, as if he gloated upon the opportunity, Lord Russell proclaimed his policy of neutrality, which conceded equal belligerent rights to our rebellious States. If President Johnson, on the information that the Fenians had set up in Dublin an independent government for Ireland, were to proclaim his recognition of the belligerent rights of the Irish republic on the same footing with the government of Great Britain, it would be only a Roland for an Oliver. But if the policy of England touching the belligerent rights of our rebel States was an unprecedented and shameful concession to a rebellious conspiracy, his ingenious underhanded devices of giving "aid and comfort to the enemy," and the zeal and industry of England's ruling oligarchy in every shape and form in behalf of Jeff Davis, including those Anglo-rebel pirates on the high seas, were so outrageous in their perversity that only a good round bill of damages or the alternative of reprisals, peace or war, will satisfy the American people.

We are so well convinced of the truth of this opinion that we do not hesitate to say, that if General Grant were to write a letter or make a public speech embracing the declaration that his position on these Alabama claims could be expressed in four words—"the cash or reprisals"—he would, without writing or speaking another word on public affairs, be elected our next President by the vote of every State in the Union. Mr. Johnson understands the pulse of the people on this question, and though doubtless restrained from the full expression of his own views by his temporizing Secretary of State, he has still adhered to the public sentiment of the country in suggesting his readiness to follow the example of General Jackson. In regard to the offensive French usurpation in Mexico, Mr. Seward was kept at it, and by dint of incessant scolding and badgering Napoleon was induced to retire; but Lord Stanley closes the door in the face of our amiable Secretary, tells him that for his claim but the last resort in such cases.

With this notice from Lord Stanley the time has come for a special message on this subject from President Johnson to Congress. It need not be long. Let him say that as all efforts to bring the British government to a settlement or recognition of these Alabama claims have failed, he recommends the ultimatum of the cash or reprisals, and calls upon the two houses for their co-operation, and it will suffice. The pressure of public opinion, in view of the near approach of the Presidential election, will compel the two houses to face this music; and, moreover, such a message would be a crown of glory to the administration. The bitter insults and provocations heaped upon this republic by England during our late civil war call for at least this statement. The American people expect it, and the new Dominion of Canada awaits only the signal to join us.

WANTED.—A fire insurance office willing to take risks on Secretary Seward's purchases among the West India Islands.

The Impeachment Farce Ended.

The national House of Representatives yesterday finally disposed of the question of the impeachment of the President of the United States by a very decisive vote, the report of the committee recommending impeachment having been rejected by nearly two to one. There was considerable preliminary skirmishing on the motion of Mr. Wilson to lay the whole subject on the table; and eventually that motion was withdrawn and the vote taken on the direct resolution reported by the majority of the committee, "that Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, be impeached for high crimes and misdemeanors." Fifty-seven members voted in the affirmative and one hundred and eight in the negative, a majority of the republicans themselves, therefore, declaring against impeachment. Thus ends a farce that has been a disgrace to the nation and a deathblow to the extreme radical party.

With the exception of a few members, some stupid and bigoted, and others artful and mischievous, the House of Representatives has always been conservative at bottom. The passage of the constitutional amendment a little over a year ago was a triumph of conservatism over the radical measures of confiscation, pains and penalties, advocated by Thad Stevens and his followers; and had Congress heeded the popular verdict in the elections of 1866, and adhered to that measure as a final settlement of the question of reconstruction, the country might now be at peace and the republican party securely established in power for the next ten or twelve years. All their troubles have been brought about by the abandonment of conservative measures and the adoption of the extreme policy of the radical leaders. The defeat of the impeachment resolution by so decisive a vote is the first evidence they have given of returning reason. Let them follow it up by the repeal of the Southern military government, negro supremacy reconstruction laws, forced upon them by their radical associates, and they may yet make some amends for the mischief they have done. At all events, the country will rejoice that the disgraceful farce of impeachment is at an end.

Napoleon's Roman Conference—Will It Assemble?

To-morrow (Monday, December 9), was named, or seemed to be accepted by a very general consent, as the day on which the European congress proposed by the Emperor Napoleon would assemble in Munich, with the view of adjusting, by diplomatic conference, the serious difficulties which exist between the kingdom of Italy and the temporal authority of the Pope, and defining, if possible, the future relations which the two Powers shall bear to each other; and the question, will this congress assemble, forms, perhaps, the most serious political proposition with which the cabinets of the Old World have more immediately to deal.

The settlement of the Italo-Roman question has become an absolute necessity to the national life of Italy, and is essential for the maintenance of peace. Napoleon's plan of a conference indicates a means towards that end, but the Emperor of France has not been hitherto fortunate in witnessing the fruition of his ideas of general cabinet councils; and it appears, judging from our latest cable telegrams, as if the proposal of the assemblage in Munich will, like the rest, be dissipated before the moment of organization arrives.

The London Globe, a sort of official organ of Lord Derby, says that "the present attitude of France" renders the conference impossible, while the Paris Press asserted yesterday evening that the assemblage will convene to-morrow—but meeting in Paris and not in Munich. The Globe also says that the great Powers will be represented by their Ambassadors now in Paris.

The Powers and peoples of Europe are vastly divided, by policy and in feeling, on the Roman question, and it looks as if there exists a distrust of meeting the representatives of the French Emperor in conference on a subject which may be made to assume a very wide range, and evolve some new and important points of question of international rights.

In issuing his invitations for the Munich conference Napoleon departed from the royal routine previously observed on such occasions. All the Powers of Europe were called on to participate in the council—a rather startling innovation on what had become to be regarded as the right or duty of the "Great Powers" alone—that of acting as imperial arbitrators for their weaker neighbors. Our cable reports show that Spain, Austria, and the other exclusively Catholic Powers, with Switzerland, Denmark, Sweden, Portugal and the minor States, accepted the conference plan almost unreservedly; while England, Russia and Prussia hesitated and demanded a definition of bases and outline of subjects for debate. Italy does not wish a congress, and the Pope adheres to it only in the firm hope that he is not to obtain a new lease of his temporalities, but also a restoration of a portion of the depolished patrimony of the Church.

In the French Legislature the Marquis de Monnier and M. Rouher, Ministers of State, defended the intervention in Rome and the temporalities as they exist. M. Rouher declaring that "Italy should never go to the extreme of taking possession of Rome by force." When the Italian Parliament met in session on Thursday General Menabrea, the Premier, pronounced against Garibaldi, but declared that "it was as inconsistent for the temporal power to exist at Rome as it would be for a foreign Power to hold possession of the city of Paris."

Such divergence of opinion between France and Italy, coupled with the fixed determination of both Powers on the subject of Rome, render the European situation really critical, and cause a vast importance to attach to the assemblage or non-assemblage of the Roman conference to-morrow.

Should some of the Powers reject the plan it may be that Napoleon will organize the congress on the principle of a free suffrage State plebiscite, with as many of them as he can have to attend, and define a plan of settlement of the question by their votes, thus placing the onus of refusal and the consequent continuance of the agitation on the Powers which absent themselves; or perhaps the Emperor will again "defer" to the expressed will of his great neighbors, abandon the conference "idea," and put up with another blow to his political prestige.

Ecclesiastical Toadyism.

In the monarchical countries of Europe, and particularly at court centres, it has long been the reproach of republican America that her sons and her daughters, not always young and inexperienced, have revealed an affection for monarchy and its accompanying institutions which the highly privileged Europeans themselves but distantly approach. Benjamin Franklin set an example which Europe justly admired and of which America was not unjustly proud. We have heard it whispered, however, and on the very best authority, that the glory which the shrewd Benjamin won was originally an accident, and due rather to the tardiness of his tailor than to his own integrity. Be this as it may, however, the reproach remains, and the experience of each successive generation justifies it more and more.

A fresh example of this American toadyism has just been given, and in a quarter where it was least to be expected. Bishop Potter, of New York, was one of the highly privileged Americans who took part in the Pan-Anglican Synod recently held at Lambeth Palace, London, under the presidency of his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury. We do not much wonder that Bishop Potter should have felt emotions of pride at meeting in council and taking part on equal terms with the proud hierarchy of England. It was something to be addressed as "My Lord," to be a peer among many other spiritual peers, and to hob-a-nob with his Grace of Canterbury and his Grace of York. Bishop Potter is only a man, and in the company of great people, of people admittedly their superiors, most men are conscious of a certain elation of soul. Bishop Potter had no cause to be ashamed of the company in which he found himself; on the contrary, he had every reason to feel proud. A wiser man, however, than Bishop Potter, if he had not concealed his emotions, would at least have been guarded where and how he revealed them. It was natural that the clergy of the diocese of New York should present to their spiritual superior on the occasion of his return from Europe a congratulatory address. It was right and proper that the Bishop should make a reply. It is a pity, however, that in his reply he should have revealed so large an amount of toadyism and should so completely have justified the reproach that rests upon the American character. We are not a nation of toadies, but when men in the high position of Bishop Potter reveal the toady so unmistakably we cannot wonder that the charge should be maintained.

We noticed the Bishop's address at the time it first appeared in print, but we felt no disposition to enlarge upon it. It would be strange, we thought, if our sharp-eyed English cousins missed the opportunity of having a fling at us. Our exchanges show that they have not missed it. The *Saturday Review* has made it the text of one of its characteristic articles, and has dealt the Bishop and, through the Bishop, the American people, some smart but not unmerited blows. In his reply Bishop Potter informed his clergy that he "enjoyed an evening with the Archbishop of Canterbury at his palace," that he found the Archbishop to be a "humble, exemplary and kind Christian man," and that he left Lambeth "edified and gladdened by his well spent evening." In another part of his reply he said that he had "visited the palaces of several of the bishops." It is not to be wondered at that the *Saturday Review* should have its joke about the prominence which the Bishop gives to "palaces," should ask what peculiar preconceptions he had of the character of the Archbishop, since he felt constrained to mention to his clergy that he found him "humble, exemplary, kind and Christian," and should wonder whether he expected to leave his Grace otherwise than "edified and gladdened." We should have imagined that one godly man would have found and left another godly man very much as Bishop Potter found and left his Grace of Canterbury. It seems, however, that our views of godly men are somewhat different from those of Bishop Potter. The Bishop's experience is no doubt larger than ours has been, and perhaps his expectations were justified by his superior knowledge. If it were otherwise it is difficult to acquit the Bishop of a certain amount of toadyism.

The "atmosphere" and "air" in which Bishop Potter found himself in England were such that when he recalled his impressions he waxed positively eloquent. Speaking of the places which he visited and of the scenes in which he mingled, he told his clergy that the "atmosphere which prevailed at these blessed places was such as to cause a glow of happiness and an inspiration of praise to God," and that "prelates living in such a godly air could not fail to bring with them a blessing to their work, and to be successful." We Americans are rather proud of our "atmosphere" and our "air," but when it is borne in mind that on this side of the Atlantic there is no "nobility" to co-operate with the clergy "with a zeal and an energy which are truly strengthening," that we have no "peers" to aid us with their fortunes, and to "build up churches and schools," it is less to be wondered at that the aristocratic tastes of the Bishop of New York should incline him to prefer the "atmosphere" and "air" of aristocratic England. In the Bishop's reply there was much more toadyism of a similar sort, over which the English reviewer naturally makes merry. We have no desire to follow the Bishop and his reviewer further. The conclusion to which we feel ourselves driven is simple and easily stated. If toadyism continues to be manifested by our representative men, we cannot wonder, far less complain, if Mr. Dickens and others who have occasion to describe our national character should call us by our true names.

The Wise Men of the Chamber of Commerce.

There are a number of gentlemen, as wise as owls but as impractical as any other kind of birds, who, being members of the Chamber of Commerce, undertake to regulate everything that comes before the public. They have recently memorialized Congress concerning the removal of obstructions in New York harbor. There is no doubt that we have been grievously afflicted with obstructions in our harbor. For instance, there is the wreck of the steamer Scotland, lying for more than a year in the channel, and a good many other wrecks, around which sand banks are collecting, to say nothing of the rocks in Hell Gate. These things affect the business of the gentleman who compose the Chamber of Commerce probably more than the business of any other class

of the community. Why do not these gentlemen, instead of sending resolutions to Congress, go to work themselves, raise a fund and remove the obstructions in the harbor? This would be doing something practical and useful; but we are afraid that the Chamber of Commerce is not educated up to that point yet. It is evident, however, that the removal of obstructions in the harbor of New York is a necessity which commands immediate attention.

The Drama, Legitimate and Illegitimate—The Prospects of the New York Stage.

It is a little singular that while the world progresses, and art and science make rapid onward strides, the stage, whose province it is "to hold the mirror up to nature," should steadily decline, until the degeneration of the drama has become a subject of common remark. This falling off is not in the higher walks of the profession alone. It is not that the theatrical firmament is at present destitute of any particular star whose brilliancy attracts the attention and excites the admiration of the world. We cannot expect that every age will yield us a John Kemble, a Siddons, a Kean, or a Booth. But the degeneration of the present day extends through every degree of the profession, from the highest to the lowest; so that if we occasionally meet with an actor whose genius rises superior to all the obstacles with which it has to contend, we are certain to find judgment and taste outraged by the wretched manner in which all the subordinate characters are personated.

Various reasons are assigned for the decline of the stage, according to the standpoint from which the subject is viewed. The complaint of the managers is that the people of the present day will not properly support the legitimate drama. The people attribute the responsibility to the managers, and charge that avarice, jealousy and ignorance have combined to bring the theatres to their present condition. The profession shrug their shoulders, and declare that the flame of ambition must pale before the blue fire of the property man, and that it is useless for an actor to strive to excel nowadays in anything but roaring melodramatic rant and fustian. It is probable that each class has more or less of truth to back up its position. Yet the protest that the American public will not patronize a good performance of the legitimate drama is disproved by the experience of those artists who have realized fortunes by their visits to our shores—such as Rachel, Dawson, Ristori, and we hope to be able to add Janaschek, although bad management has done its utmost to deprive the latter of the golden reward to which her genius entitles her. We rather incline to the opinion that the managers themselves are mostly to blame. They put the legitimate drama upon the stage in a most illegitimate manner, and while their wretched stocks are acting to empty benches, stand in the fats and rail indignantly at the indifference of the unsympathetic people. Finding their treasury empty, they substitute some spectacle in which legs take the place of brains, and pyrotechnics of poetry, and attract audiences whose money is worth as much to them as that of the most intelligent citizens in the community. The character of the drama falls lower and lower as the petticoats of the danseuse and figurante rise higher and higher; yet who shall say that Shakespeare and the higher dramatists, with genius, talent and sense to embody their creations, would not prove as remunerative to managers as all the Black Crooks and Devil's Auctions that ever held their undress revels on the stage?

Years ago, in the palmy days of the old Park theatre, when the elder Kean and Cooper and Fanny Kemble and Wallace and their contemporaries were in the full bloom of their popularity, and when Ferroz was a reader of Shakespeare, instead of a melodramatic butcher, there was no complaint of a lack of patronage of the legitimate drama. Tragedy and comedy walked hand in hand upon the stage, and were sufficient to attract appreciative audiences, while the managers and the people were in accord. For the past twenty years the scale of the profession has been going down lower and lower, and theatre after theatre has passed out of existence and been forgotten, despite mutual protection associations of managers and all other efforts that could be made to save them, except the one simple remedy of good performances. Of late years the phosphorus, blue light, bare-legged drama has come into vogue, and its ephemeral success has driven nearly every other style of amusement off the stage. At present there are but two or three theatres at which an intellectual rather than an animal entertainment can be enjoyed. Wallace's holds its fashionable supporters together, and gives them in return for their patronage a good stock company and some fine revivals of old plays. But its novelties have been mainly trash, and the last of them, "Maud's Peril," does not redeem their character. Improbable and absurd in its plot, without any merit in its language, it belongs to the lowest order of sensational plays, and is altogether unworthy of the fine company by whom it is performed. At Wallace's, where we find almost the last remnant of the old school acting, the reputation of the house should be sustained by new pieces of real merit, and every point ought to be made good. The Academy of Music, one of the finest theatres in the world, lies crushed under the heavy burden of middle-class stockholders and incompetent managers, and the wildest efforts of the oyster house Bohemians cannot raise it to its feet. In every department it shows evidences of decay. Other theatres of the city drag their weary way, all under the cloud of miserable companies, stupid pieces and poor audiences.

It intrude that some ray of light promises to break through the darkness of the theatrical skies. We are to have a new Opera House, and there is a prospect of its being opened under good management. A new theatre is being built, the proprietor of which might be expected to have some desire to raise up the dragged standard of the drama from the mud and mire of Black Crookism. At the French theatre, to which the splendid Ristori first called the attention of the fashionable world, making the corner of Sixth avenue and Fourteenth street as famous as Irving place, the Grande Duchesse holds court, and disproves the grumbling assertions of unenterprising managers, that the people have no taste for opera and no appreciation of a first class performance. She draws about her, every evening that she gives audience, the bulk of the aristocracy of New York, from silver plate down to shoddy, and could apparently extend her reign to an indefinite period. But Manager Bate-

man is now about to withdraw her temporarily from her throne of triumph and introduce her anew as La Belle Helene, in a piece immortalized by some of the best of Offenbach's music, so well known now to our people through the familiar and sparkling airs of La Grande Duchesse. Nor will this be the only treat in store for the frequenters of the French theatre; for the manager has made arrangements with Offenbach to bring out all his wonderful and popular pieces in New York simultaneously with their production in Paris. Let us hope, therefore, for a revival of the drama before long that will astonish the citizens of New York and drive all the Black Crooks and Devil's Auctions of the present day off the stage and into their Christian clothes.

The Fashions.

Ornaments in gold, jet and steel are vogue now in Paris, according to our correspondence from that gay city. Arrows, lyres and dragon flies are the last objects seen of a lady as she disappears around a corner, and white muslin drapery conceals the low bodices of the coming mode. The Empress appeared before the legislative Assembly in white satin, brocaded with gold laurel leaves, and over her shoulders was thrown a black lace shawl. Princess Murat was tasteful and brilliant as usual, and in the train of Eugenie jewels flashed from every brow. A lady has got into trouble about an insufficient dressing gown in the French capital. The ladies are vegetarian in their notions of dress at the Porte St. Martin theatre, being dressed up as asparagus, carrots and turnips. There are, of course, a great many extravagances in Paris in the matter of fashions; but the true taste of French women always leads them to adopt some toilet becoming their age, complexion and height. Now, if our American ladies would only carry out the disposition they manifest at present in choosing for themselves only what is becoming to them, they will have attained the true goal of fashion. There is not the slightest use in selecting some mechanical style of costume for the entire season to suit all ages, forms and complexions. The true idea of fashion is adaptability of the prevailing mode to the person who wishes a new toilet. Without this fashion is a humbug, and ladies of America subject themselves to the ridicule of the world. Some of our leading establishments on Broadway and the adjoining streets seem to have come to this conclusion this winter, and their customers are now suited exactly according to their requirements. The holidays are bringing around a great many changes in ladies' toilets, and it is a gratifying thought that our better halves are now beginning to think for themselves and to exercise their own judgment in matters of dress. Verily, the reign of Paris has departed, and the daughters of the great republic feel independent and democratic, garmentwards.

American Churches in Foreign Countries.

To exhaust this subject we should have to travel in imagination over the whole wide field of American missionary enterprise, wherever Bibles and New England rum have been sent. We should also have to write a curious chapter about the experiences of Mormon elders and the influence of Joe Smith's Book of Mormon in the mining districts and manufacturing towns of Great Britain and of Northern Europe. Nor would it be right to omit an account of the missions established or partly sustained by American Baptists in France, in Germany and Sweden. But we can only mention, in regard to the last named missions, that although the one established thirty years ago in France has met with such serious opposition, particularly under the ministry of the Protestant Guisot, that it equals only a membership of five hundred out of a population of thirty-seven millions, yet it is an interesting fact that the heroic persistence of a few obscure Baptists in the Department de l'Aisne in claiming "the right of meeting" was a proximate cause of the French Revolution of 1848. In Sweden the number of Baptist churches modelled on the American pattern, or at least on the copy of what American Baptists consider the form of the original apostolical churches, was reported to be at the end of 1856 one hundred and eighty-three, and their membership at present reaches nearly eight thousand. In Germany the number of these churches is less, being only eighty-seven, but the membership has risen to full sixteen thousand. The church in Berlin has seven hundred and seven members, more than one-half of whom, however, live out of town. Much interest has been taken in America in the history of this particular church, and the late United States Minister to Prussia, Mr. Wright, was, perhaps, induced by what he knew of its growing influence to carry out all the more earnestly his project of building a Methodist church in Berlin. A main object which Mr. Wright had in view was to supply the increasing colony of American seagoers in the Prussian capital with opportunities of meeting every Sabbath to join in religious services conducted in what the late Mr. Marcy used to call "the American language." The preachers of different American denominations who might chance to be in Berlin were to be invited to preach, and all offensive denominational peculiarities were to be eliminated, so that members of different sects could meet harmoniously on the grounds of a common faith. It appears, however, from the letter of our Berlin correspondent, which we publish to-day, as well as from a previous letter, that since the death of Mr. Wright the project of a "Union" church has not been much more successful in Berlin than a similar project has proved at Paris. In the latter metropolis the Episcopals have deemed it necessary to erect a second American church, in which only their own clergymen are invited to officiate. Both in Paris and in Berlin the comparatively few American Protestants who feel sufficiently interested to attend the religious services provided for them seem to have lost none of the tenacity with which they adhere to their respective denominational differences. The number of American residents abroad is large enough to justify them and their friends in erecting in most of the principal European cities a suitable temple where the members of different American sects might meet to worship God. But we question whether it would be advisable to have each and all of these innumerable sects specially represented in Europe, even if it were practicable. The bewildering variety of American religious denominations would certainly perplex more than it would edify the inhabitants of pagan countries, and could only seem amusing to the philosophical and sad to the